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Suzan E. Lechner

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David C. Long, et al.  
Application No.: 10/723,074  
Filing Date: November 26, 2003  
Title: POWERED CLEANER/POLISHER  
Group Art No: 1744  
Examiner: Shay L. Balsis

Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Attention: Mail Stop RCE

Sir:

Remarks

A March 16, 2006 final Office Action issued in this case. Applicants filed an amendment after final on April 17, 2006. An advisory action issued on May 19, 2006. The advisory action indicated that further consideration and/or search was required that could not procedurally be conducted in after final practice. It also indicated that further consideration was needed as to whether new matter issues existed with respect to the amended claims.

Applicants have therefore filed an RCE requesting consideration of the April 27, 2006 amendment (referred to as a May 3, 2006 response in the Advisory) without the procedural restrictions of after final practice. As this RCE is being filed within three months of the original Office Action, no additional fees are believed necessary for its consideration apart from the RCE fee. However, if any are, please charge them to Deposit Account 10-0849.

With respect to the issue regarding whether there is adequate support for the amended language:

1. The Advisory Action raised a question as to the support for the amended claim 1 concept of having the packet disposed between the cleaning attachment and carrier while a portion of that cleaning attachment and carrier were connected by a hook and loop fastener connection. The Office's attention is respectfully called to paragraphs [0051], [0060] and [0065], and Fig. 13A.

A relevant portion of paragraph [0051] is "A looped upper surface of the cleaning attachment 18 engages the hook fastener 66.". Numbers 18 and 66 are present in Fig. 13A. Hence, a hook and loop engagement with respect to the Fig. 13A embodiment was specifically taught.

A relevant portion of paragraph [0060] is "The cleaning composition may alternatively be provided in a pouch or packet 80, as shown in FIGS. 13A and 13B.". Also, Fig. 13A depicts that while the packet 80 is between cleaning attachment 18 and carrier 66 a portion of the hook and loop connection is still engaged. Thus, using the hook and loop connection system with a design where the packet is between the cleaning attachment 18 and carrier 66 was specifically taught in the original disclosure.

While the Office did not raise a new matter concern with respect to the triangular limitation, Applicants also wish to make clear that paragraph [0065], Fig. 13A, and original claim 9 all fully supported this limitation as well. For example, in paragraph [0065] it is stated that "All of the most preferred embodiments of the invention described so far have included a generally triangular cleaning attachment about the same size as the footprint of the carrier.".

Thus, there should be no new matter concern with respect to amended claim 1, or claims dependent thereon, as presented on April 27, 2006.

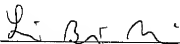
2. The Advisory Action also raised a concern as to the support for the concept in proposed amended claim 4 of there being a peel-off layer "apart from the cleaning attachment". Fig. 13B specifically depicts a cleaning attachment which is in the process of being peeled off while a separate peel-off layer 82 is also being peeled off adjacent perforations. In any event, paragraph [0029] emphasizes the combination of a structure where there is both the cleaning attachment and a separate peel-off seal, paragraph [0051] discloses that the cleaning attachment can be "peeled off", and paragraph [0061] describes layer 82 as a peel-off layer with respect to Fig. 13B. Note also original claim 4 which referred to a peel-off layer like peel-off layer 82.

Thus, there should be no new matter concern with respect to claim 4 as presented on April 27, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVID C. LONG, ET AL.

Date: May 24, 2006

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